

10516828

Appln No. To be assigned
Amdt date December 3, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Amend KC 3/18709

Page 1, after the title, please insert the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a National Stage application of International PCT application No. PCT/US2004/009694, filed on March 29, 2004, which claims the priority to U.S. Provisional application No. 60/458,296, filed on March 28, 2003.

Page 3, lines 13-28, please amend as follows:

Tank cylindrical midsection 15 is covered by a cylindrical skirt 32 which, in a preferred form, is made of about eleven plies or layers of flexible fiberglass cloth, the adhesively bound plies being oriented at 45 degrees to the longitudinal axis of the tank. The inside diameter of the skirt is slightly larger than the outside diameter of the tank midsection, enabling injection of a thick (about 0.1 inch) layer of an elastomeric adhesive ([Proseal] PROSEAL P5890, Class B, made by PRC Desoto is satisfactory) to bond the skirt to the tank.

The thus-bonded skirt and tank make a slip fit within a mating inner cylindrical surface 34 of a fuselage of spacecraft 11, enabling injection of a thin (about 0.02 inch) layer of a rigid bonding adhesive to secure the tank and skirt to the fuselage. An adhesive such as [Hysol] HYSOL 9396 is satisfactory. The tank-skirt and skirt-fuselage bondings form the sole support for rocket 10 within the spacecraft.